REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 23, 24, 26-31, 33, 35-42 and 45-47 in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 23 and 33 have been amended to include the limitations of previously pending claims 43 and 44. The Office Action indicated claim 44 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Previously, claim 44 depended from claim 43, which depended from claim 33. The inclusion of the limitations of claims 43 and 44 into claims 23 and 33 renders them allowable. Similarly, the remainder of the claims depend from claim 23 or 33 and are therefore allowable. Therefore, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is not applicable and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 23 and 33 have been amended to delete the objected to term "discontinuous" or "discontinuously" and the phrase "greater than ambient air pressure". Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Although an extension of time is submitted herewith, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response; please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Attorney Docket No. 37303.49442US).

Respectfully submitted,

June 17, 2004

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